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TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN



June 2013

TBI Continues Outreach on Human Sex Trafficking as VAW Hearing Series Comes to Close in July

The 2013 public hearing series on the economic impact of Violence Against Women (VAW) will conclude in July with hearings in Jackson and Johnson City, July 15 & July 31, respectively. Surveys, focus groups and a literature review will round out the data gathering process as the newest TECW report approaches its October release date.

This project expands on the Economic Council's study released in 2006, which revealed more than \$174 million in reported costs caused by domestic violence alone. The current work will include a more rigorous update on that information and will also address the economic impact of human sex trafficking. Margie Quin, Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will present at both



Special Agent Margie Quin


hearings in July. She has provided materials in previous hearings about human sex trafficking in Tennessee and will soon present an update to the TBI's 2011 report on that subject.

"We often think of human sex trafficking as something that happens

somewhere else or with other people, but this is happening right here in Tennessee and the majority of the victims are young girls born in Tennessee. Thankfully, the Tennessee Legislature has passed legislation in recent years to enhance the penalty for both pimps and johns who prey on children and women, and to decriminalize the actions of minors who are victimized in this way," said Quin.

The hearing in Jackson will be held at the Walter Barnes Conference Center at West Tennessee Health Care, located at 620 Skyline Drive. It will be held from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., central time.

The hearing in Johnson City will be held at the Carnegie Hotel Ballroom located at 1216 W. State of Franklin Road in Johnson City from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., eastern standard time.

Federal and state officials as well as representatives from law enforcement, social service agencies, healthcare, the judicial system and survivors will testify to the economic impact of these crimes. 

Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks

Dear Colleagues,

Let me begin by congratulating the committee who produced and coordinated the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Summit. It was yet another opportunity for women to grow and glow in becoming more impactful within society. The 2013 event was filled with people from all walks of life striving to learn new ideas and network among peers. I also am honored to congratulate Justice Sharon Lee on receiving the second annual Lizzie Crozier French Women's Leadership Award, commonly referred to as the Lizzie Award. Justice Lee is most deserving.



This regional summit serves as a forerunner to the statewide summit that will be held in Nashville at the Airport Marriott on Oct. 27 & 28. This year's summit is in partnership with Vision 2020 and its regional conference, bringing more people to Nashville for this annual event. This year, the summit will celebrate its 10th year anniversary.

The hearings on the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women continue to be a highlight of the organization. Gathering information about the economic impact of these crimes is bringing significant awareness to the Council as well as the research being done. The official report will be presented at the annual summit in October.

Lastly, let me again thank the members of the Economic Council and their various committee members for the hard work being done to produce and coordinate the hearings. Your tireless work is most appreciated and is making a positive difference in the lives of Tennesseans.

Warmest regards,

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West TN Hearings Discuss Impact of Violence on Children and Communities in June

At a time when Tennessee ranks third in the nation in the number of women killed by their intimate partners (Violence Policy Center in Washington, DC, 2012), the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, (TECW) is working to identify the cost of Violence Against Women in Tennessee, with specific



(L to R): Hearing Chair Carol Danehower, E.D. Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Kathleen Armour Walker, TECW Chair Yvonne Wood, Dena Wise, Rep. Dawn White

focus on domestic violence and human sex trafficking, which target women and girls four-to-one. The Economic Council is currently conducting the first phase of its research: a statewide hearing series seeking testimony from various agencies and organizations statewide to learn more about the direct cost of protecting and providing services to survivors and their families. During the month of June, hearings were held in Memphis and Trenton, which were the sixth and seventh of nine total hearings to be held statewide.

During the Memphis hearing, Tennessee Public Safety Commissioner Bill Gibbons testified that more than half of all violent crimes in the state are linked to domestic violence; and in Shelby County, where Memphis is located, 18 percent of occurrences in 2012 were committed by repeat offenders. Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich identified well more than \$10 million in

expenses incurred by Memphis and Shelby County law enforcement and the District Attorney's office to respond to and prosecute related cases and to jail offenders. On a larger scale, Congressman Steve Cohen shared information about the cost-effectiveness of the federal Violence Against Women Act. He cited a study showing that the legislation saved U.S. tax payers more than \$12 billion in its first six years, alone, by improving prevention, prosecution, treatment, and other services.

In Trenton, Department of Children's Services agent, Donna Lorchorn

shared that, while domestic violence is rarely the initial cause for a case to be opened at DCS, 21 of the 45 cases that she personally oversaw in 2012 involved known or suspected violence in the home and 16 of those cases combined to necessitate the out-of-home care of 43 children in Northwest Tennessee. Lorchorn explained that this results in daily payments to approved foster homes of up to \$27 per day, or to contract-based caretakers ranging from approximately \$100 to \$500 each day for children who require a higher level of care. Other possible expenses include clothing allotments and school fees of several hundred dollars as well as travel costs, utility and rental assistance. Certain expenses, like a standard \$900 psychological evaluation, vision check or physical, aren't charged to DCS


at all, but are performed by local health departments, which are publicly funded.

Children under DCS care also receive TennCare Select benefits, which are paid for by state and federal government, and are frequently treated for physical and mental issues such as anxiety, Attention Deficit Disorder, depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or problems related to alcohol and drugs. In her review, Lorchorn found that all of the children in her area who are currently receiving mental health treatment, are engaged in supervised visitations or are participating in parenting assessments came from a home where violence was confirmed or suspected.

Hearings are being held in each of Tennessee's nine development districts. They will conclude with hearings in Jackson, July 15 and Johnson City on July 31. In addition to the hearings, a survey is being conducted as well as sessions with fo-



Local UT Extension Service Family & Consumer Sciences Agents played a critical role in facilitating the Trenton event.

cus groups to help determine the costs of these crimes to society. Yvonne Wood, Chair of the Council said, "The 2013 hearings are revealing the trend is continuing and it erodes more than just the social fabric of our families, but the economic strength of our state." 


State Education Commissioner Huffman Speaks at Spring Meeting

The TECW Spring Quarterly Meeting was held in Nashville at the law offices of Bass, Berry & Sims, following the Nashville hearing on the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women (VAW). In

the need to increase both rigor and performance in Tennessee's schools and noted TN students are 46th in math and 41st in reading in the nation. He also pointed out that Tennessee students struggle within the region as well, noting, for example,

More information about these members will be in an upcoming newsletter.

The Council and Foundation also extend special thanks to Kathy Prescott of Bass, Berry & Sims Law Firm and her staff for coordinating the meeting for the Council and Foundation as a contribution from the firm. Their support and community outreach to the Council has been most appreciated.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Columbia State Community College as part of the annual retreat, August 15 & 16th. You will be receiving more details soon. 



(L to R): Pat Pierce, Phyllis Qualls-Brooks, Dena Wise, Bill Arth, Alma Sanford, Rep. Dawn White, Kathleen Armour Walker, Jane Powers, Kevin Huffman, Yvonne Wood, Susan Whitaker, Carol Berz, Ruby Miller.

addition to regular business, the Council agenda focused on the series of statewide hearings being held across the state and featured a presentation from Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman.

The VAW hearings are continuing to bring awareness to the problems faced by women and children in their efforts to cope with domestic and sexual violence committed against them, and the financial burden these senseless acts place on Tennessee's economy. During the Quarterly Meeting, a review of the Nashville hearing highlighted the less reported long-term expenses and opportunity costs that result from violence against women such as unearned income. This cost is estimated to be in the millions based on unpaid leave, missed educational opportunities and cost to the victims as well their companies. The final two hearings will be held in Jackson and Johnson City, July 15 & 31, respectively.

Commissioner Kevin Huffman presented a briefing on the state's priorities for education. He discussed

that certain categories of Tennessee students are performing a full year behind their peers in Kentucky.

The Commissioner also explained that eight educational field offices have been established statewide, at-risk interventions have been implemented to increase graduation rates, and the Achievement School District has been created to assist particularly distressed schools statewide.

Plans are continuing in the development of the Women & Work Project and the rebuild of the TECW website to provide comprehensive information for women seeking employment, entrepreneurial opportunities and work retention. Background work is being researched for the website with a launching date sometime in the fourth quarter of this year.

Additionally, there will be several board members whose terms expire in the next several months and the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House will be naming new members to the Council. We continue to thank and praise those members for their untiring service to this agency.

Upcoming 2013 Events

July

July 15, 2013

**Violence Against Women
Hearing - Jackson, TN**

July 31, 2013

**Violence Against Women
Hearing - Johnson City, TN**

August

August 16, 2013

**TECW Annual Retreat - Columbia
State Community College**

August 17, 2013

Summer Quarterly Meeting

October

October 27-28, 2013

**10th Annual Economic Summit for
Women-Nashville Airport Marriot**



October 29, 2013

Fall Quarterly Meeting

2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEARINGS



TENNESSEE ECONOMIC
COUNCIL ON WOMEN



The Tennessee Economic Council on Women will convene nine public hearings in 2013 to explore *the economic impact of violence against women in Tennessee*. From law enforcement and court costs to healthcare, social services and business concerns, violence perpetrated against women is costing Tennesseans millions, and the Council's efforts will better define that expense for use by leaders, policymakers, and advocates statewide.

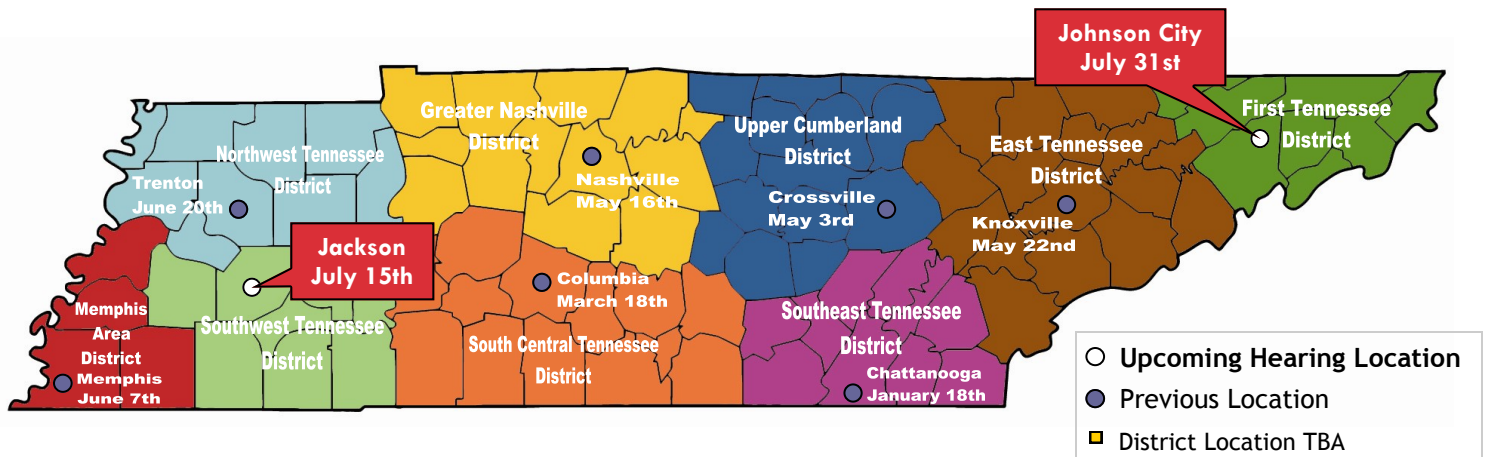
ATTEND A HEARING NEAR YOU!

July 15th - Jackson, TN

West Tennessee Healthcare
Walter Barnes Conference Center
620 Skyline Drive
Jackson, Tennessee 38301
8AM–12:30PM CST
Kathleen Armour Walker, Chair

July 31st - Johnson City, TN

Carnegie Hotel
1216 West State of Franklin Road
8AM–12:30PM EST
Elliott Moore, Chair



Previous Hearing Locations:

- Chattanooga, Jan. 18th • Nashville, May 16th • Memphis, June 7th
- Columbia, March 18th • Knoxville, May 22nd • Trenton, June 20th
- Crossville, May 3rd

TECW hearings are open to the public. If you would like to attend or participate in future hearings, please contact the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at 615-253-4266 or info.ecw@tn.gov.



A Study by the Tennessee Economic Council on Women
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